THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SMUGGLING OF EXPLOSIVES AT COASTAL POINTS

†2524. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the coastal points in the country have become heaven for smuggling particularly of explosive including RDX and Lethal weapons and sometimes even ship loads of such arsenals are brought to such points ;

(b) if so, what information Government have in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken to prevent smuggling of explosives and lethal weapons along coastal points in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) There have been intelligence reports that attempts to land arms, ammunition, explosives including RDX may be made in coastal areas of the country. Consequently, intensive surveillance and joint sea patrolling by Customs, Police, Navy & Coast Guard has been launched in sensitive areas. The available reports in Ministry of Finance do not indicate such landing has taken place recently.

(c) Anti-smuggling agencies have been strengthened by equipping them with better means to combat smuggling. Anti-smuggling agencies of Central and State Governments are acting in concerted manner to thwart any such attempt to smuggle arms, ammunition, explosives etc.

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† Previously unstarred Question No. 1706 Transferred from 15-12-1993.

SERVICE RULES OF RURAL BANK STAFF

2525. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) when the amendment of Service Rules and Promotion-cum-Recruitment Rule of Rural Bank staff became due as per Tribunal Award; and

(b) which Sponsoring Banks have failed to submit their views and what action has been taken against them for such failure for nearly one year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The amendment of service rules and promotion-cum-recruitment rules of Regional Rural Bank (RRB) staff are not part of the Tribunal Award. Consequent upon the implementation of the Award and recommendations of the Equation Committee, certain changes were to be brought about in service regulations, recruitment and promotion policy for the RRB employees. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had accordingly constituted a Working Group in September, 1991 with the following terms of reference :

(i) to frame service regulations for all categories of RRBs;

(ii) to frame recruitment and promotion policies in RRBs; and

(iii) any other matter relating to the implementation of the Award of the Tribunal read with Equation Committee Report.

The Working Group submitted its report and its recommendations have been generally accepted by the Government on the advice of NABARD. As a result of the acceptance of these recommendations, action on the following points was required to be taken :—

(a) Issue of instructions clarifying various issues relating to pay scales,